

Azadliq Prospekti 83
370007 Baku, Azerbaijan
Phone: ++ (99412) 98 03 35
Fax: ++ (99412) 98 93 12
E-mail: mirzoyevaso@state.gov
www.baku.usembassy.gov

RELEASE NEWS

THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION / EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

4th Anniversary of September 11 Attacks

Op-Ed by Ambassador Reno Harnish

Once again this September, the United States is deeply touched by an outpouring of sympathy and support from its friends around the world in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. We are truly grateful for the continuing assistance provided by governments, individuals, and private organizations in the wake of this tragedy, including the Government of Azerbaijan's very generous \$500,000 donation.

As we start the long process of rebuilding from this catastrophe, I am reminded of a very different September, just four years ago. Then as now, our friends were quick to lend their aid, but the event to which they were responding was no natural disaster. On September 11, 2001, we witnessed an unprecedented attack on the civilized world. The attacks of 9/11 shocked men and women throughout the world and ended the lives of citizens from over 90 countries.

Americans are well aware that terrorism was not invented on September 11. Far too many countries around the world have endured tragic attacks for decades and even centuries. The September 11 attacks, however, demonstrated that today's terrorists intend to strike to the limits of their power. And this danger is increased when outlaw regimes build or acquire weapons of mass destruction and maintain ties to terrorist groups.

Tempered by the tragedy of 9/11, America and its allies around the world are determined to face these new threats, not ignore them or simply wait for future attacks. In the post-9/11 environment, we are working with our allies to reconfigure national and international security arrangements in order to prevail over terrorists as well as the states and organizations supporting them.

Memory of these events fuels America's continuing efforts to defend Americans and our allies by stripping terrorist organizations of their ability to operate and to attract new recruits. Our objective is a lasting, democratic peace in which nations can develop and prosper, free from the threat of terror. We are helping to build a hopeful future for people who have suffered for far too long. We will not allow troubled regions to remain mired in despair and violence.

Terrorists offer no constructive vision for the world. Their sole mission is to destroy what others have built through hard work and commitment. Our common international efforts to defeat the terrorists, therefore, serve to provide the global security upon which free, peaceful nations can

advance their social, cultural and economic development goals.

The United States and its missions worldwide are working daily to lay the foundation for peace by supporting the development of democracy. Democratic governments do not shelter terrorist camps or kill innocent men, women, and children. Rather, they raise their citizens up, directing their energies and resources to fostering the rule of law and seeking expanded opportunities for trade and development.

We pause to remember the fallen from over 90 countries worldwide who died on September 11, 2001. We remember also their friends and relatives whose lives were changed forever. We replay in our minds the images of that horrific day, but we also embrace new images of hope. We remember the worldwide outpouring of sorrow and solidarity that were the seeds of the international campaign against terrorism launched in the wake of the attacks. We are committed to working with our allies, such as Azerbaijan, toward the day when terrorists' messages fall flat, when their wallets are empty, and when their recruits turn away to take advantage of opportunities made possible by those who build, not destroy.

Let there be no doubt, we gather strength from our memories of those who died that day – and remain vigilant against those who still seek to harm us and our friends around the world.